

My name is Raianne Richards. I am a musician and social networker. I use the internet on a daily basis to promote my band and also to receive feedback from friends and supporters. I appreciate the openness of the internet and wish there were more facets of my daily life that could be as genuinely helpful. I believe that the "level playing field" in which anybody can use the tool to connect with others has significantly aided in the success of my band.

We are a conceptual folk trio from Massachusetts. We tour nationally. Our music is best appreciated by listening room audiences and those who are able to hear our songs and grasp the meaning in such a way that the "story" and morality of the music is understood. We could not reach those people without the internet. Our locale does not have enough support and/or venues to support our art and therefore we must travel in order to maintain our goals for success. We use the internet from home and also while on the road to connect with and constantly update our fans via bulletins, blogs, pictures, social networking sites, etc. We enjoy taking advantage of wireless free internet while traveling and it has allowed us to experience new places and also scope out potential venues. We also are able to self-distribute our music worldwide without having to involve a third party.

I access high speed internet from my home and I also use wireless free internet (WIFI) whenever possible while traveling. The availability has affected our choice in hotel/ lodgings many many time while traveling.

In my home the internet is part of a bundled package and it is the only available option to my knowledge. It is reasonably priced. there is some available WIFI near where I live so I have the option of opting out of having it in my home. However I believe it is worth paying for the convenience of having the internet at my disposal without having to leave the house.

On the road unless we are with friends who have the internet in their home we are at the mercy of whatever WIFI is available. Availability of wireless free internet has exposed us to new places and also has affected our choices in lodging on many occasion. The only downfalls of wireless that we have experienced is if the service is unreliable (as in down periodically) it can be very inconvenient to those who have limited time in their schedule to use this tool to "work" ie contact fans, booking agents, access important info about a venue we may be attending that day, etc. The only other downfall we have experienced first hand is hacking and viruses due to a WIFI network that is unsecured.

The internet grants access to enormous amounts of people making the potential for success so much more accessible regardless of what time or money they can invest. This "Level-ness" is a much more authentic approach towards art than the options besides the internet a musician has available to promote themselves. Not to mention the practical affordability the internet lends to promotion in comparison to other methods available. This system allows for a fairer reward for artists which is

based on merit rather than resources and opportunity. The internet has awarded the public greater influence in what is deemed "good" or acceptable based on integrity and artistic value rather than marketability and potential ROI and profit.

I honestly feel that the good things far outweigh the bad in this instance.

The issue is as difficult to dissect as our country's current healthcare situation. From my perspective as an artist, because it costs the artists money to produce music and distribute it either digitally or through touring it should have some monetary value just as any other service or trade. It is fair to expect compensation in exchange for services (ie entertainment) or goods (songs, albums, art).

On the other hand even if you aren't being payed up front for your music, it is still being exposed to people you may not otherwise reach. They may decide to invest in you later down the road when there is something new available for them to purchase, or possibly help with a show or something like that.

I feel that above all the artists are most responsible for protecting themselves against file sharing and there are tools out there to do such. However the idea of a sort of "internet police" to shut down these sites allowing such things is very appealing.

I think there are more pros to making internet more available than cons. The internet offers so many resources to people in any community, as well as allowing for paperless billing and other similar things which allow a state, company or particular area to reduce waste worldwide. I believe this should be receiving as much support as possible and my tax dollars would be well spent on it. Despite the resistance to change I feel that most people find the internet to be more helpful than hindering.

I think that these principles should be expected to apply to wireless. In my mind it is all one internet. If that breeds competition it means it will also create more industry and jobs. This just means these companies will have to adapt as their industry changes. This type of thing has been going on for hundreds of years.

Free speech should absolutely be preserved online. If the internet has become mankind's way to facilitate communication than we have to allow free speech in order to allow for progress! How can you have true art without free speech??

I appreciate greatly the opportunity to participate in such an important dialogue. Thank you for allowing me, an average citizen, and anyone for that matter have input in the future of art, music, and communication for our culture and society.